

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CU-02 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 OMB-01 /090 W

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R 241341Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0290

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 1122

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, VS, NG

REF: LOME 668

1. GVN DEPUTY PRIMIN VAN DON ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR NGUYEN VAN

LOC FROM ABIDJAN AND MILITARY AIDE SPENT MARCH 21-22
IN NIAMEY. HE HAD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH VICE PRESIDENT SANI
SIDOU, ACTING FOR PRESIDENT WHO WAS OUT OF TOWN, AND SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR INFORMATION LOUTOU (WHO KEY PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR).
HE ALSO SPOKE TO PRESS THREE TIMES AND MANAGED TO GET GOOD
COVERAGE OF POINTS HE WANTED TO GET ACROSS.

2. AT CALL AT EMBASSY MARCH 21, TRAN VAN DON SAID THAT
AT MEETINGS WITH GON OFFICIALS HE HAD TAKEN LOW KEY APPROACH
REFRAINING FROM CRITICIZING NORTH VIETNAM OR PRG AND STRESSING
GVN DESIRE TO LIVE UP TO PARIS ACCORDS, HIGHLIGHTS OF WHICH HE
EXPLAINED IN SOME DETAIL TO NIGER MINISTERS, AND GVN COMMITMENT
TO HOLD ELECTIONS. HE FELT HE HAD CORRECTED SOME
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NIGERIEN MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT SITUATION AND EXPRESSED

VIEW MEETINGS HAD GONE WELL. HE ALSO MADE POINT TO MINISTERS AND TO PRESS THAT GVN WAS PART OF THIRD WORLD WITH WHICH IT WANTED CLOSE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS.

3. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, TRAN VAN DON SAID QUESTION OF NIGER VOTE ON PRG AND RELATED ISSUES AT UN AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES HAD NOT COME UP. ON THIS MATTER, HE SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS SAYING HE DIDN'T THINK GVN COULD COMPETE WITH SUCH COUNTRIES AS ALGERIA FOR NIGER'S VOTE.

4. NEITHER SIDE ENTERTAINED OTHER.

5. WE CAN CONFIRM LOME REFTEL REGARDING TRAN VAN DON'S PROPOSAL TO PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S OFFICE TO VISIT LOME APRIL 3-5 AFTER TRIP TO OUAGADOUGOU, MONROVIA AND ABIDJAN. CALLE TO LOME WAS MADE FROM OUR OFFICE.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS TRIP DID NOT MAKE AMNY WAVES, WE BELIEVE SUCH VISITS USEFUL TO HELP OFFSET SIMILAR DRV VISITS AND TO REMIND GON OF WHAT IT DESCRIBES AS ITS CLOSE RELATIONS

WITH GVN. TRIPS OF THIS NATURE MIGHT BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR IN ABIDJAN COULD STIR HIMSELF IN ADVANCE AND PREPARE GROUNDWORK FOR VISIT WITH NIGERIEN OFFICIALS.HECK

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